

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Cyndi Forbes

And I live at 2526 Heritage Drive in Helena Montana.

I am here today to stand in opposition to SB236 which would remove Capital punishment from the Montana Statutes.

With the advances in forensic science and DNA testing the chances of an error in identification of a criminal offender have been reduced to the point where the chances of error are measured in ratio's of 1 in many billions.

Society has to reserve the right to defend itself against the most heinous crimes and those who feel justified in taking human life in a preplanned and premeditated way.

Some crimes such as those committed by John Wayne Gacie or Jeffery Dahmer demand that the perpetrators pay the ultimate price for what they have done.

For those of you who believe in putting certain crimes in the category of Hate Crimes with stronger penalties for those crimes think about what increased penalties could be added to the sentences of these two criminals that would not require the death penalty.

The argument that the death penalty does not deter criminals from committing those crimes only has validity if the death penalty is not administered and criminals found guilty of these crimes and legally sentenced to death are allow to spend may years waiting for their appeals to be exhausted or a pardon or some other action by the legal system that justifies not allowing the sentence that they were given to be carried out.

If in fact the sentence of a lawful court is carried out in a timely manor and the execution of that sentence is made public a criminal will think again before going forward with a premeditated act of murder.

Criminals need to know that Montana is not fooling when a verdict of guilty is handed down and that they will receive to full punishment of the law.

Timely and just execution of the law will protect society from those who would prey on the weak and helpless and prevent the problem of repeat offenders who would repeat the horrible crimes they are prone to commit

I urge you to reject SB236 totally and stand up for those who have been the victims but can no longer speak for themselves.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME